

REMARKS

Claims 17-31 are pending in the present Application. Claim 25 has been canceled, claims 17, 23, 24, and 26 have been amended, and no claims have been added, leaving claims 17-24 and 26-31 for consideration upon entry of the present Amendment.

Reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Allowable Claims

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowability for Claims 25-27.

Claims 25-27 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have accordingly made the following claim amendments:

The limitation of claim 25 has been incorporated into independent claim 17, from which it depended. There are no intervening claims between claim 25 and claim 17. Thus claim 17 as currently amended contains all of the limitations of claim 25 and the base claim. Claim 17 is therefore now allowable, as well as claims 18-22 and 26-31, which depend therefrom.

The limitation of claim 25 has been incorporated into independent claim 23. Applicants respectfully contend that claim 23 is now allowable.

The limitation of claim 25 has been incorporated into independent claim 24. Applicants respectfully contend that claim 24 is therefore now allowable.

No new matter has been introduced by these amendments as support for these amendments can be found at least at claims 17, 23, 24, and 25 as originally filed.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 17-24 and 28-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as allegedly anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,165,990 to Nakano. Applicants respectfully contend that the foregoing amendment to independent claim 17 renders this rejection moot over claims 17-22 and 28-31. Furthermore, the Applicants respectfully contend that the addition of the claim limitation of canceled claim 25 into claims 23 and 24 result in the failure of Nakano to anticipate the claims as the reference fails to teach or suggest a plastic pallet comprising both a top deck and a bottom deck. Reconsideration and removal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

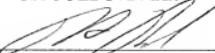
Claims 17-24 and 28-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as allegedly unpatentable over United States Patent No. 5,165,990 to Nakano in view of United States Patent Nos. 4,410,651 to Haaf, et al., 4,442,251 to Haaf, et al., 4,504,613 to Abolins, et al., 5,008,314 to Lee, Jr. or 5,412,024 to Okada, et al. The Applicants respectfully contend that the foregoing amendment to claim 17 to contain the limitation of allowable claim 25 renders this rejection moot. Furthermore, the Applicants respectfully contend that the addition of the claim limitation of canceled claim 25 into claims 23 and 24 result in the failure of the cited references to render the claims as obvious since none of the references teaches or suggests a plastic pallet comprising both a top deck and a bottom deck. Reconsideration and removal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

It is believed that the foregoing amendments and remarks fully comply with the Office Action and that the claims herein should now be allowable to Applicants. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

If there are any additional charges with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 50-1131.

Respectfully submitted,

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